SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that we have to announce the passing away of Gert Schlorf, ZS1ABM, on Tuesday 13 January. Gert had a heart attack and died in hospital. He is survived by his wife Toekie and six children.

Gert was well known for the ZS0STB packet BBS which he operated in the Western Cape, and which functioned as gateway station to amateur satellites carrying mail. His station had a reputation for being well run.

Gert was a member of Boland Amateur Radio Club and was the holder of the Jack Twine Merit Award, and he was also a world record holder for a contact on 2 m between Luderitz and Italy.

In the early days of the SUNSAT project, Gert erected the first ground station for SUNSAT at Stellenbosch University, including antennas, rotators, and all modems for communicating with the satellite.

He served the amateur community quietly without being on the foreground at all.

Our sincere condolences go out to his wife, children other relatives and friends.

(PAUSE).

In the news today:

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT CONVERGENCE BILL

THE PEARS NATIONAL VHF/UHF CONTEST

DXPEDITION TO SWAZILAND

TWO AMATEUR SATELLITES EXPECTED TO LAUNCH THIS YEAR

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp

not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT CONVERGENCE ACT

On 3 December 2003 the Department of Communications published the Draft Convergence Bill and called for interested persons to submit written comments or representations. Comments or representations must reach the Department by the 3rd February 2004.

This Draft Bill contains proposals of direct interest to all radio amateurs. The SARL will compile a response and will submit this by the above date. If it appears justified, the SARL will also request the opportunity to make representations in whatever forum is set up by the Department.

All radio amateurs are requested to read the Draft Convergence Bill and submit comments directly to the SARL. You can download a copy of the Bill from the following address: http://www.gov.za/gazette/bills/2003/25806.pdf. The document contains 64 pages, and is provided as a pdf file. Please note that the file size is 2,12 MB. Alternatively copies can be obtained from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001.

Please submit your comments directly to Peter Hers whose email address is zs6phd@mweb.co.za. All comments must be received by Saturday 31st January 2004.

THE PEARS NATIONAL VHF/UHF CONTEST

The Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society extends an invitation to all VHF amateurs in the RSA as well as neighbouring countries to participate in their VHF/UHF contest next weekend.

This 48 hour contest has been sub-divided into two 24 hour sessions for increased activity and fun. It commences at 18:00 SAST on Friday 23 January and ends at 18:00 SAST on Sunday 25 January. The contest caters for a wide variety of VHF enthusiasts such as single or multi-operators or club stations and covers analogue, digital, QRP as well as mobile stations.

Certificates will be issued for the longest distances achieved on the 50, 144, 432 and 1296 MHz bands, the top scorers of each category in each of the six divisions, as well as the overall digital winner and runner-up.

The rules have been published in the latest RADIO ZS on the SARL website.

DXPEDITION TO SWAZILAND

Ron, ZS5ABD, William, ZS5WC, Rad, ZS6RAD and Willie, ZS5WI, will be in Swaziland from around Tuesday 20th January to Tuesday 27th January 2004. The Div 5 chaps will be concentrating on HF whilst Rad will be participating

in the PEARS VHF contest on the Saturday/Sunday. They will be operating HF phone only from Thursday 22nd to the following Tuesday on all bands as conditions dictate. An interesting aspect of this trip will be that William will be experimenting with a helium filled balloon and a 160 m antenna. If this is not a success they will erect a dipole and still operate on 160 m.

By the way, they managed to work 48 Countries during their previous 3DA0DX trip in July 2003.

Thanks to Willy, 3DA0BD, and Andy, 3DA0TM, for all their interest and support.

Interested amateurs can e-mail Willie whose email address is zs5wi@iafrica.com. QSL's go to ZS5WI, PO Box 1064, ESHOWE, 3815.

TWO AMATEUR SATELLITES EXPECTED TO LAUNCH THIS YEAR

This item is from the ARRL news.

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, says he's looking forward to the 2004 launches of AMSAT-NA's ECHO satellite and AMSAT-India's VUsat (also known as "HAMSAT"). In his last President's Letter for 2003, Haighton reported that ECHO is passing final integration and testing with flying colors.

It is expected that the launch will take place towards the end of March, but AMSAT-NA still needs to raise more than $60 000 for the launch campaign.

The new microsat-class satellite shall apart from its other capabilities, provide for satellite voice communication using handheld FM transceivers.

The satellite will incorporate two UHF transmitters, each running from 1 to 8 W and capable of simultaneous operation, four VHF receivers and a multiband, multimode receiver capable of operation on the 10 meter, 2 meter, 70 cm and 23 cm bands. ECHO will feature V/U, L/S and HF/U operational configurations, with V/S, L/U and HF/S also possible. FM voice and various digital modes–including PSK31 on a 10-meter SSB uplink–also will be available.

Haighton reported that VUsat experienced some problems in testing but these are being resolved. A VUsat launch could come as soon as late summer, that is late winter in the Southern hemisphere.. VUsat will incorporate two linear transponders, with a UHF uplink and VHF downlink and CW, USB and FM capabilities.

These two projects are certainly exciting and SARLNEWS trusts that both will run successfully.

ACTIVITIES IN WHICH TO PARTICIPATE

Tonight, 18 January at 20:00 - INTECNET on antennas; 20 - 27 January, the Dxpedition to Swaziland by amateurs from Div 5 and 6; 24 January The East Rand Radio Club bootsale on at 10:00 at the Germiston Lake Boat Club followed by a meeting to kickstart a forum for East Rand Clubs that will coordinate club

events and much more. 23 - 25 January - PEARS VHF/UHF contest. 14 February - Kids Day.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Martin, ZS6ABU, and read by …….from…… as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX

========== Message Ends ==========
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